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Trump spending cuts, his approach to climate change attacked as catalyst of catastrophic Texas flooding

White House said it was 'shameful and disgusting' to see people politicizing the tragedy in Texas

By Alec Schemmel · Fox News

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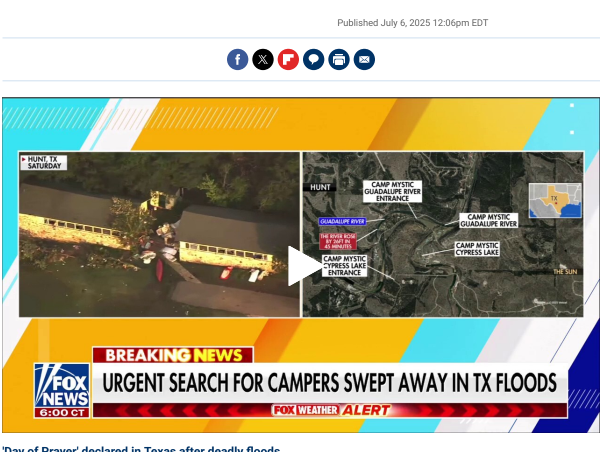

'Day of Prayer' declared in Texas after deadly floods

Gov. Greg Abbott, R-Texas, has declared a 'Day of Prayer' after flash floods devastate the state as the death toll and missing persons list rises.

Critics of President Donald Trump wasted no time blaming staffing cuts at the National Weather Service (NWS) for the widespread death and destruction caused by the floods in Texas, a reaction the White House called "shameful and disgusting."

At least 59 people, including 21 children, have been confirmed dead from the flash floods along the Guadalupe River that began Friday. Eleven children and one counselor remain missing from a girls' summer camp near the river, which flooded due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Barry. That storm made landfall over Mexico, but triggered massive unexpected thunderstorms over parts of Texas.

"It only took 9 days for Trump's cuts to the [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] to kill dozens of children in Texas when Tropical Storm Barry landed this week," Grant Stern, the executive editor of Occupy Democrats, wrote on X.

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TEXAS FLOOD SURVIVORS SHARE HARROWING STORIES, SEARCH CONTINUES FOR THOSE STILL MISSING

"The people in Texas voted for government services controlled by Donald Trump and Greg Abbott," added Ron Filipkowski, former federal prosecutor and the editor-in-chief of MediasTouchNews. "That is exactly what they (sic) getting."

Critics of President Donald Trump are using the catastrophic flooding in Texas that occurred over the July 4th holiday to show the devastating impacts of Trump's cuts to the federal government and his approach to climate change. (Patrick Keely via Reuters)

"What has happened to the girls at Camp Mystic is EXACTLY what one of the country's best meteorologists, John Morales, warned would happen," added Rachel Bitecofer, assistant director at Christopher Newport University's Wason Center for Public Policy. "Trump's cuts to the NOAA & NWS have critically impacted storm prediction nationwide."

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem held a press conference Saturday, and acknowledged some of the criticisms regarding the nation's flood notification systems, which included concerns that weather forecasts underestimated the amount of rain that ultimately fell.

Noem noted that the Trump administration is "currently upgrading" the nation's flood notification technology, which she described as "ancient."

DEADLY TEXAS FLOOD EXPOSES 'NEGLECTED' WEATHER ALERT SYSTEM TRUMP AIMS TO MODERNIZE

"When the [weather] system came over the area, it stalled," Noem said during the press conference. "It was much more water, much like [what] we experienced during [Hurricane] Harvey, with the same type of system that was unpredictable in the way that it reacted in the way that it stopped right here and dumped unprecedented amounts of rain that caused a flooding event like this."

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Tom Fahy, legislative director for the National Weather Service Employees Organization, told NBC News that weather forecasting offices were adequately staffed, and "they issued timely forecasts and warnings leading up to the storm," but he added that unfilled leadership positions were "clearly a concern."

"All I'll say is this. The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for Kerr County more than 12 hours ahead of the catastrophic flood. A flash flood warning was issued for Hunt & Ingram 3 HOURS before the Guadalupe started to climb," said Texas-based meteorologist Avery Tomasco. "They did their job and they did it well."

The same sentiment was echoed by other meteorological experts as well.

DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and Gov. Greg Abbott discuss the ongoing efforts after flooding along the Guadalupe River during a news conference in Ingram, Texas, on Saturday. (AP Photo/Rodolfo Gonzalez)

But, still, news of the advanced warnings has not stopped people from using the catastrophe to criticize the Trump administration.

"The reason Trump defunded the National Weather Service leading to the deaths of all those girls in the Texas flood is because PROJECT 2025 THOUGHT WEATHER PREDICTION SCIENCE WAS TIED TO EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE," musician Mikel Jollett wrote on X.

WHITE HOUSE INSISTS FEMA IS TAKING HURRICANE SEASON 'SERIOUSLY,' BLASTS 'SLOPPY' REPORTING

Isaiah Martin, a Democratic candidate for Texas's 18th Congressional District, called for an immediate congressional investigation into "the Republican DOGE cuts to NOAA and the National Weather Service."

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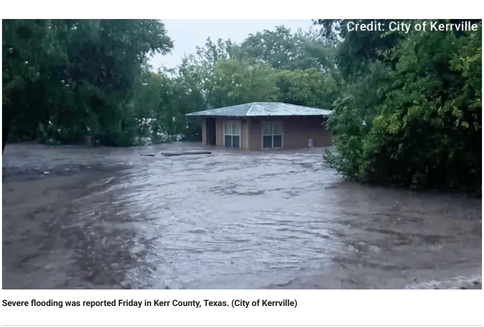
"We saw the affects (sic) this weekend," Martin wrote on X. "Trump defunded these agencies and we DEMAND answers. There MUST be *swift* accountability!"

"Trump & Musk gutted the National Weather Service. The result was predictable: A bad forecast leading to the death of children in a horrific flood," added California state Senator Scott Wiener.



Severe flooding was reported Friday in Kerr County, Texas. (City of Kerrville)

Meanwhile, Washington Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee did not directly blame Trump's approach to climate change for the deaths, but he suggested the president's efforts to peel back green energy funding are a contributing factor to increased catastrophic natural disasters, like this weekend's flood in Texas.

"It is hard to make the Texas flood tragedy worse, except to know that on the same day Trump signed a bill cratering solar and wind energy that is vital in the battle against the climate change making these torrential rains more frequent," Inslee wrote on X this weekend.

During an interview with CNN, Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, added that he didn't think it was helpful to have open leadership positions that, if filled, could "help prevent these strategies."

"I don't think it's helpful to have missing key personnel from the National Weather Service not in place to help prevent these tragedies," Castro said, adding "we have to figure out in the future how we make sure that it doesn't happen again."

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White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson called it "shameful and disgusting" to see that in the wake of this tragedy people are politicizing what took place.

"It's shameful and disgusting that in the wake of tragedy, the left's first instinct is to lie and politicize a disaster to target their political opponents. False claims about the NWS have been repeatedly debunked by meteorologists, experts, and other public reporting," Jackson said. "The NWS did their job, even issuing a flood watch more than 12 hours in advance. The Trump Administration is grateful to the first responders who sprung into action to save hundreds lives during this catastrophe, and will continue to help the great state of Texas in their recovery efforts."

Fox News' Alexandra Koch contributed to this report.

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ob9543051 · 21 hours ago
"The NWS issued a "life-threatening flash flooding" warning in Kerrville at 1:14 a.m. on Friday. The alert triggered the Emergency Alert System, meaning it would have sounded the alarm on cell phones throughout the area. Cell phone users who didn't have service or who turned off emergency alerts wo... See more
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> **vetsop1** · 20 hours ago
> I agree but I can tell you living in Texas and being in places that are rural like this it's almost impossible for service. however, authorities could have gone to these outposts and let people know what was coming. I'm not trying to put the blame on anybody and I know how fast Waters can rise here...See more
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Quietly · 18 hours ago
As a Florida resident of over 35 years I truly appreciate and still do - NWS and NOAA.
It never occurred to me to blame them if a hurricane veered or rain fall was higher / lower than expected.
What is MOST important is how I pro-act and how Government reacts.
Huge shout out to Governor DeSantis on h... See more
Reply · 16 · 2 · Share
2 replies

ohyes2011 · 21 hours ago
I wish for a president who offers services to any state that is undergoing a disaster without comments about politics no matter the political leaning of the state.
Reply · 29 · 3 · Share

> **Partisantoolsarefools713** · 20 hours ago
> Thank you. It's nice to see someone actually be kind and reasonable here.
> Reply · 11 · 1 · Share
> 1 reply

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Jjred2828 · 21 hours ago
sad thing is the weather service started talking about flash floods on central Texas on Wednesday and on Thursday forecasters pretty much had the warning areas right where it happened. it's sad that the vamps did not take weather forecast seriously
Reply · 17 · 1 · Share

> **joey5491** · 19 hours ago
> Given Texas' history of flash flooding, I'm amazed the forecast wasn't more alarming. Seems I can remember when much of the flooding was blamed on the Army Corps of Engineers? Naturally, it was only a matter of time that Trump would be the new scapegoat.
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banditrider · 17 hours ago
Of course they're going to blame Trump. The workers that were cut at NOAA and NWS were those who hadn't shown up to work since Covid. I don't think any of those workers would have gotten a warning out.
Reply · 17 · 4 · Share

ProudtobeanAmerica · 20 hours ago
It's weather it's unpredictable if it were predictable we would not have had a problem with hurricane KATRINA OR ANDREW OR HARVEY ETC ETC ETC.
Reply · 20 · 2 · Share

> **sunnysidedown** · 18 hours ago
> Funny, meteorologists are wrong, every day. Why do you think the forecasts change, daily, hourly and by minute? But you can control the weather, right liberals? And Gore said we'd be under water by 2025 due to the climate change boogeyman.
> Reply · 4 · Share

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philkoprowski217 · 21 hours ago
Liars using a tradegy to try and score points.

The facts are the NWS did issue multiple watches, warnings and even a flash flood emergency.
Reply · 40 · 3 · Share

> **jjdavis267** · 20 hours ago
> Yes it is disgraceful that people would ever use the death of another human being to score political points.
> Reply · 24 · 2 · Share
> 2 replies

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maizemascots · 20 hours ago
NWS made horrible predictions long before any budgetary cuts. Maybe if they would get from out behind computers and get outside they could do better. For the love of God stop trying to blame Trump for everything it is getting old!
Reply · 19 · 3 · Share

> **sunnysidedown** · 18 hours ago
> Funny, meteorologists are wrong, every day. Why do you think the forecasts change, daily, hourly and by minute? But you can control the weather, right liberals?
> Reply · 5 · 2 · Share
> 1 reply

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TrailWell · 8 hours ago
I saw someone put it like this today, and it stuck with me:

Pick your favorite football team, and imagine instead of 11 players, they only have 8. Doesn't matter how good those players are—they're going to lose. They can't do the job of a full team.

That's exactly what happens when you gut NOAA and ... See more
Reply · 8 · 4 · Share

> **Biblethumper1220** · 5 hours ago
> NOAA said they were fully staffed.
> Reply · 4 · Share

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Timeforthe25th510 · 20 hours ago
"Crucial positions at the local offices of the National Weather Service were unfilled as severe rainfall inundated parts of Central Texas on Friday morning, prompting some experts to question whether staffing shortages made it harder for the forecasting agency to coordinate with local emergency man... See more
Reply · 5 · 1 · Share

> **hesaidwhat** · 20 hours ago
> I guess I'm confused about warnings being sent. I know that with email, there can be a message sent to t group of people all at the same time. How many people does it take to enter the address for each recipient? How much more can be said that is not included in the document sent? Maybe it take... See more
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